

CLAIMS

1. An interface for an electronic device being coupled to an external device, the interface including:

a configurable hardware interface, wherein the configurable hardware interface includes:

a programmable logic device (PLD);

a memory coupled to the PLD;

a control interface for controlling the PLD and the memory; and

a communication interface for receiving information from the external device and enabling the control interface; and

a storage component for storing a bitstream that configures the configurable hardware interface to implement a driver of the external device.

2. The interface of Claim 1, wherein the storage component includes volatile memory.

3. The interface of Claim 1, wherein the storage component includes static random access memory.

4. The interface of Claim 1, wherein the communication interface includes one of a universal serial bus, a parallel port connector, a serial port connector, and a small computer system interface (SCSI).

5. The interface of Claim 1, wherein the communication interface establishes synchronous communication between the electronic device and the external device.

6. The interface of Claim 1, wherein the memory includes at least one lookup table.

7. The interface of Claim 1, further including at least one of an Ethernet interface, a modem interface, and a custom interface for communicating with the external device.

8. A method of facilitating communication between two devices, the method comprising:

identifying a host device, from the two devices, that controls communication between the two devices;

identifying a peripheral device that accepts commands from the host device;

storing a plurality of bitstreams in the host device, the plurality of bitstreams corresponding to predetermined drivers;

determining whether one of the predetermined drivers is a driver of the peripheral device,

wherein if one of the predetermined drivers is the driver of the peripheral device, then selecting that bitstream corresponding to the driver of the peripherals device,

otherwise, directing the host device to receive a bitstream from the peripheral device; and

configuring a programmable logic device (PLD) in the host device with the bitstream to implement the driver of the peripheral device.

9. The method of Claim 8, further including storing a plurality of designations in the PLD, wherein each designation corresponds to one of the plurality of bitstreams, wherein determining includes searching the plurality of designations.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the plurality of designations are stored in at least one lookup table.

11. The method of Claim 9, wherein each designation includes an address for one of the plurality of bitstreams stored in the host device, and wherein selecting includes accessing an address in the host device for the bitstream to implement the driver of the peripheral device.